cmd:>
Ok.. Whom Do
I Contact About
My Packet
Questions?

It seems a little known secret but it's no secret at all!
PROM has a Membership Information Officer. Although the
role of the MIO is to provide the member with helpful
membership information, there's much more! The Membership
Information Officer is THE person to contact for ANYTHING
which is packet-related. WF7X, Priscilla Pollman of Libby
is the MIO.

If you're not sure about your TNC settings, if you'd like
to know how to generate packet mail on the BBS network,
if you've got a BEEF about a packet-related matter, if you
just feel lonely and don't have anyone to which to type
(imagine that!), she's the person with which you need to
get in touch. (No...she doesn't want the role of 'Dear
Abby'....please take your "boss doesn't like me" complaints
to the complaint department *hihi*.)

Priscilla has graciously volunteered her time to help PROM
members with packet-related questions and it's a shame we
don't take more advantage of her (figuratively speaking
Priscilla!). Geez...we're not getting to be too 'folksy'
in DOWNLOAD are we? She can be reached by any one of
three ways:

Packet : S WF7X @ KE7TB
Phone   : 406-293-5607
US Snail: Priscilla Pollman, ARS WF7X
          PROM Membership Information Officer
          1519 Utah Ave.
          Libby, MT 59923

cmd:>
Getting the
Feeling From
FEMA

Well, folks....FEMA (Federal Emergency Management
switched the 'deck' on us a bit...they moved their
conference from Billings to Rapid City. Apparently,
there was some snafu in getting hotel accomodations
for all involved in Billings. In any event, we'll not
be providing a PROM 'warm body' for the conference.

Not to despair! We are submitting a written proposal for
220 backbone funding. The first rough-draft proposal has
already been submitted to the DES (Disaster/Emergency
Services Division) of the state and the second draft is
in the word-processor. In phone conversations with the
State Radio Officer of DES, he continues to sound as if
this is a promising possibility! In fact, the $12000
figure was about 60% too low in his opinion and the ante
has been 'upped' to over $25000. "Ya....sure!" I said to

him! He was serious. He feels these should be first
class installations with hard-line et al.

We'll continue to play the 'wait-and-see' game. In the
meantime, first person to hold their breath and turns
purple wins a door prize! Thus far, the ONLY current
net/rom site who, apparently, isn't interested in free
equipment is Billings.   For whatever reasons, they have
not responded to our inquiries. Looks like we'll have to
backbone around them if it all comes to pass.

cmd:>
PROM Hosting   It appears it's that time of year again....the time of
Another Packet   year when 'packet' seems to gain a bit of interest from
Class   the 'looky loos'. PROM, in cooperation with the Capital
                      City Amateur Radio Club, will host it's second packet
                      class in Helena on February 6th. Expected turn-out is
                      higher than this 'hacker' would ever have guessed. Say!
                      Do you suppose the ham community is starting to under-
                      stand the fact that packet ISN'T a passing fancy *hi*?

                      Anyone outside of Helena is welcome...there is NO fee.
                      Seven p.m. at the state Armory - DES Headquarters.

                            Please Load Part #2

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 Volume 2, Number 2          "D O W N L O A D"          February 1, 1989
 The Electronic Newsletter of the Packet Radio Organization of Montana (PROM)
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Part 2 of 2

cmd:>
SSID Isn't
Stuttering!

SSIDs or Secondary Station Identification numbers seem to be puzzling to the newcomer on packet. It is a simple system that allows a user to have more than one station under one call. An example is W7DVK-5 the Missoula digi. Thanks to the -5 we can also call and get Jack by connecting to W7DVK. This number addtion lets us have up to 16 different TNCs on one call and be able to specify which one we want.

Now the fine points...A smart digi (NODE such as MSO) adds an SSID to all users for which it is setting up a link. This allows the node to keep the input and output circuits clear. The node uses the SSID of the calling station and subtracts that from 15 for its SSID. Since most of us have no SSID (really an SSID of 0) we see the results as a -15 when coming from the node. Some terminals may show this as A-F which is a Hexidecimal representation of the -15. Of course if the incoming station has an SSID already, KC7ZO-2, the result would be 15 mius 2 or KC7ZO-13.

As a sample of the use of this consider the range of calls that W7DVK has. W7DVK (W7DVK-0) is Jack's home call and remains as always. W7DVK-1 is the Mini-mailbox built into Jack's TNC and can accessed just as easy by connecting to W7DVK-1 and leaving him a message if you like. W7DVK -2 is the callsign used my the mini-node JAX and will answer to either. W7DVK-5 is of course the MSO Node and W7DVK-10 is reserved for the back-bone. Notice the -10 and -5 will simply reverse when traveling thru a node. On 2-meters we will only see the -5 (even if DVK-10 sent the message as it would be 15-10 or -5) and on 220 only the -10 would show up.

...notice that you do not have to use them to connect to most stations. Only when connecting to certain units are the SSIDs used. One special feature of the Nodes requires you to use the SSID of the calling station but normally if you see a SSID on a call, (-15) you simply ignore it to reconnect to them.

(The above courtesy of KC7ZO, Danne in Stevensville - Contributing Editor)

cmd:>
Moscow Doesn't
Always Mean Bad
News!

With the installation of the MCW node, we're "cookin'" now! We now have the three-year awaited milestone at our feet. It's now possible to connect to MCW (Moscow, ID) from both the LBY and the THF nodes on two-meters. If you've seen all the Washington nodes in your local nodelist, that's how they're getting there.

KE7PV, Don in Libby, has begun to explore BBS auto-forward- ing to N7HHU in Ellensburg, WA. With a bit more fine- tuning, we should have a SOLID path west. It's been a long

SSIDs or Secondary Station Identification numbers seem to
be puzzling to the newcomer on packet. It is a simple
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under one call. An example is W7DVK-9 the Missoula digi.
Thanks to the -9 we can also call and get Jack by
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to W7DVK-1 and leaving him a message if you like. W7DVK
-2 is the callsign used on the auto-node JAX and will
answer to either. W7DVK-9 is of course the MSO Node and
W7DVK-14 is reserved for the back-bone. Notice the -10
and -5 will simply reappear when travelling thru a node. On
2-meters we will only pass the -5 (even if DVK-10 sent the
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reconnect to them.

(The above courtesy of KC7XO, Donna in Stevensville -
Contributing Editor)

With the installation of the MSO node, we're "hookin'" now!
We now have the three-year awaited milestone at our feet.
It's now possible to connect to NCN (Moscow, ID) from both
the LBY and the THF nodes on 220-meters. If you have seen all
the Washington nodes in your local nodelist, that's how
they're getting there.

W7PRU, Don in LBY, has begun to explore BBS auto-forward-
ing to N7MH in Ellensburg WA. With a bit more fine-
tuning, we should have a 220 BBS path here. It's been a long

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                                        time in coming!
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cmd:>
SKY Isn't Looking    The SKY node, as you probably know, has been ailing for
Up!                  quite some time.  The gang 'snowmobiled' the hill (9600
                     feet!) and found the battery voltage at 9vdc and the solar
                     panels snuggled in a warm blanket of snow.  The panels were
                     cleaned and adjusted and, when they left, battery voltage
                     had leaped to 11.5vdc.

                     It'll be toggled OFF until it gets a couple good days of
                     solid sunshine under it's 'belt'.  It'll sure be nice to
                     work Idaho again!
cmd:>
Sharing News         The Northwest Amateur Packet Radio Association (NAPRA) is
With NAPRA           now five years old and has over 100 members.  Our news-
                     letter, "Zero Retries", is published 4-6 times per year.
                     We are seeking to enter into reciprocal mailing agreements
                     with other packet radio organizations for the purpose of
                     information exchange.  If your packet radio organization is
                     interested in such an agreement, please have your newsletter
                     editor contact Steve Stroh, N8GNJ @ KD7NM.

                     73s/Tom wb7dch@wb7dch

                     (The paragraph above was received recently.  We will surely
                     be partaking in this mutually-beneficial endeavor!)

cmd:> d
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                              END OF FILE
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Steve - This goes out over
the BBS system but it's a
bit too long with the paths
we have west. Soooo -
am mailing it. PROM
has over 60 members
in five states and two
Canadian provinces.
Dues are cheap - $5 a
year. Nothin' Fancy.
Steve